

**NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT PERSON:** Steve Muich, 573/983-2201

**Hunnewell Lake Anglers Will See New Regulations this Spring**

**HUNNEWELL:** Those who fish at Hunnewell Lake this spring will find new regulations that are aimed at preventing zebra mussel infestations in fish hatchery water supplies. Starting March 1, 2008, all bait transported or held in containers with water is prohibited. In addition, only electric motors will be permitted on boats. The Department of Conservation provides boats at Hunnewell Lake as private boats have been prohibited on the lake since 1992.

The new regulations are needed to prevent zebra mussel infestations in hatchery water supplies from bait containers and outboard motors that may contain larval zebra mussels in the water. These restrictions will close possible sources of zebra mussel contamination. Because fish from the Hunnewell Hatchery are stocked in hundreds of lakes and ponds statewide, there is a need to eliminate as many avenues of infestation as possible.

Zebra mussels are a non-native invasive species of freshwater mussels that can infest a water supply. Where present, they can build up on boat docks, water supply valves and other structures found in the water, often resulting in expensive efforts to clean them off. Zebra mussels also compete directly with native mussel species for food and habitat.